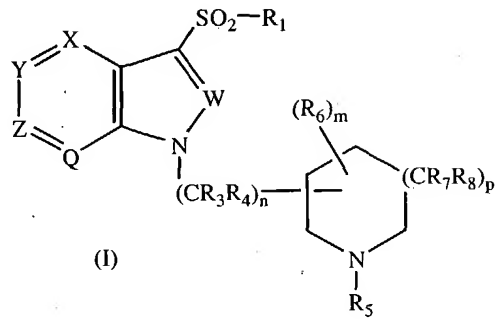
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula I



(I)

wherein

W is N or CR_2;

X is N or CR_9;

Y is N or CR_{10};

Z is N or CR_{11};

Q is N or CR_{12} with the proviso that at least one and not more than two of X, Y, Z and Q must be N;

R_1 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl group or an optionally substituted 8- to 13-membered bicyclic or tricyclic ring system having a N atom at the bridgehead and optionally containing 1, 2 or 3 additional heteroatoms selected from N, O or S;

R_2 is H, halogen, or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3 and R_4 are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_6 is a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl or C_2-C_6alkynyl group each optionally substituted;

R_7 and R_8 are each independently H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl or C_2-C_6alkynyl group each optionally substituted;

m and n are each independently 0 or an integer of 1, 2 or 3;

p is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{13}, CO_2R_{14}, $CONR_{15}R_{16}$, SO_xR_{17}, $NR_{18}R_{19}$, OR_{20}, COR_{21} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{13}, R_{14}, R_{17} and R_{21} are each independently H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{15}, R_{16}, R_{18} and R_{19} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_4alkyl group or R_{15} and R_{16} or R_{18} and R_{19} may be taken together with the atom to which they are attached to form a 5- to 7-membered ring optionally containing another heteroatom selected from O, NR_{22} or SO_q;

R_{20} is a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

x and q are each independently 0 or an integer of 1 or 2; and

R_{22} is H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteraryl group each optionally substituted; or

the stereoisomers thereof or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 0 or 1.

3. The compound according to claim 1 wherein R_5 is H or methyl.

4. The compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1 is an optionally substituted phenyl, thienyl or imidazothiazolyl group.

5. The compound according to claim 2 wherein p is 0 or 1.

6. The compound according to claim 2 wherein m is 0.

7. The compound according to claim 5 wherein the piperidinyl group is attached in the 3-position of the piperidine ring or the pyrrolidinyl group is attached in the 2-position of the pyrrolidine ring.

8. The compound according to claim 7 wherein R_5 is H or methyl and R_1 is an optionally substituted phenyl, thienyl or imidazothiazolyl group.

9. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-[(2R)-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl]-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-[(2S)-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl]-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

6-bromo-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

4-chloro-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;

7-methoxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

6-hydroxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

6-chloro-3-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

6-fluoro-3-[(3-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

5-chloro-3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;

3-[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-fluoro-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

3-[(2-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-methoxy-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

4-chloro-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

7-methoxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

6-hydroxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

6-chloro-3-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;

6-fluoro-3-[(3-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

5-chloro-3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

3-[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-fluoro-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

3-[(2-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-methoxy-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H--pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;

3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine;
6-bromo-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;
4-chloro-2-methyl-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
7-methoxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;
6-hydroxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;
1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-3-(2-pyridinylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;
1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-3-(2-pyridinylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
3-(2-pyridinylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;
1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-3-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-3-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
3-[(2-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-pyrrolidin-3-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
1-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
1-(1-phenethylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;
1-piperidin-4-yl-3-(2-pyridylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;
1-piperidin-3-yl-3-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;
1-pyrrolidin-3-yl-3-(3-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;
1-[(1-benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-[(1-benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]-3-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]-pyridine;
3-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-[(1-benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]-3-(3-chlorophenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]-pyridine;
3-(3-chlorophenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
3-(3-chlorophenylsulfonyl)-1-[(1-methylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-[(6-chloroimidazo[2,1-b][1,3]thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-[(6-chloroimidazo[2,1-b][1,3]thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]-1-(1-methylpiperidin-3-yl))-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

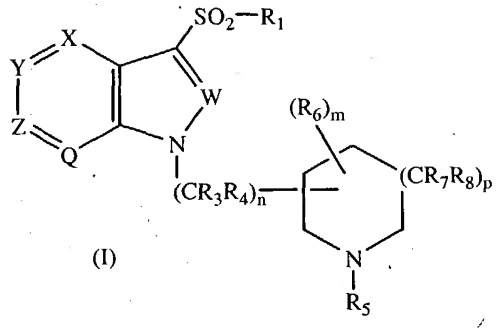
3-[(6-chloroimidazo[2,1-b][1,3]thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-3-yl))-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-[(6-chlorothien-2-yl)sulfonyl]-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

the stereoisomers thereof; and

the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10. A method for the treatment of a central nervous system disorder related to or affected by the 5-HT6 receptor in a patient in need thereof which comprises providing to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I



(I)

wherein

W is N or CR_2;

X is N or CR_9;

Y is N or CR_{10};

Z is N or CR_{11};

Q is N or CR_{12} with the proviso that at least one and not more than two of X, Y, Z and Q must be N;

R_1 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl group or an optionally substituted 8- to 13-membered bicyclic or tricyclic ring system having a N atom at the bridgehead and optionally containing 1, 2 or 3 additional heteroatoms selected from N, O or S;

R_2 is H, halogen, or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3 and R_4 are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_6 is a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl or C_2-C_6alkynyl group each optionally substituted;

R_7 and R_8 are each independently H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl or C_2-C_6alkynyl group each optionally substituted;

m and n are each independently 0 or an integer of 1, 2 or 3;

p is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{13}, CO_2R_{14}, $CONR_{15}R_{16}$, SO_xR_{17}, $NR_{18}R_{19}$, OR_{20}, COR_{21} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{13}, R_{14}, R_{17} and R_{21} are each independently H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{15}, R_{16}, R_{18} and R_{19} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_4alkyl group or R_{15} and R_{16} or R_{18} and R_{19} may be taken together with the atom to which they are attached to form a 5- to 7-membered ring optionally containing another heteroatom selected from O, NR_{22} or SO_q;

R_{20} is a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

x and q are each independently 0 or an integer of 1 or 2; and

R_{22} is H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteraryl group each optionally substituted; or the stereoisomers thereof or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

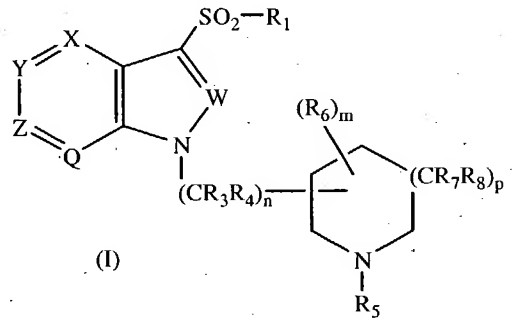
11. The method according to claim 10 wherein said disorder is a motor disorder, anxiety disorder or cognitive disorder.

12. The method according to claim 10 wherein said disorder is a neurodegenerative disorder.

13. The method according to claim 11 wherein said disorder is selected from the group consisting of: attention deficit disorder; obsessive compulsive disorder; and withdrawal from drug, alcohol or nicotine addiction.

14. The method according to claim 12 wherein said disorder is stroke or head trauma.

15. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective amount of a compound of formula I



(I)

wherein

W is N or CR_2;

X is N or CR_9;

Y is N or CR_{10};

Z is N or CR_{11};

Q is N or CR_{12} with the proviso that at least one and not more than two of X, Y, Z and Q must be N;

R_1 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl group or an optionally substituted 8- to 13-membered bicyclic or tricyclic ring system having a N atom at the bridgehead and optionally containing 1, 2 or 3 additional heteroatoms selected from N, O or S;

R_2 is H, halogen, or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3 and R_4 are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_6 is a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl or C_2-C_6alkynyl group each optionally substituted;

R_7 and R_8 are each independently H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl or C_2-C_6alkynyl group each optionally substituted;

m and n are each independently 0 or an integer of 1, 2 or 3;

p is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{13}, CO_2R_{14}, $CONR_{15}R_{16}$, SO_xR_{17}, $NR_{18}R_{19}$, OR_{20}, COR_{21} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{13}, R_{14}, R_{17} and R_{21} are each independently H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{15}, R_{16}, R_{18} and R_{19} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_4alkyl group or R_{15} and R_{16} or R_{18} and R_{19} may be taken together with the atom to which they are attached to form a 5- to 7-membered ring optionally containing another heteroatom selected from O, NR_{22} or SO_q;

R_{20} is a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

x and q are each independently 0 or an integer of 1 or 2; and

R_{22} is H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteraryl group each optionally substituted; or the stereoisomers thereof or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

16. The composition according to claim 15 having a formula I compound wherein n is 0 or 1.

17. The composition according to claim 16 having a formula I compound wherein R_1 is an optionally substituted phenyl, thienyl or imidazothiazolyl group and R_5 is H or methyl.

18. The composition according to claim 17 having a formula I compound wherein p is 0 or 1 and the piperidinyl group is attached in the 3-position of the

piperidine ring or the pyrrolidinyl group is attached in the 2-position of the pyrrolidine ring.

19. The composition according to claim 15 having a formula I compound selected from the group consisting of:

3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-[(2R)-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl]-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-[(2S)-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl]-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

6-bromo-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

4-chloro-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;

7-methoxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

6-hydroxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

6-chloro-3-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

6-fluoro-3-[(3-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

5-chloro-3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;

3-[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-fluoro-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

3-[(2-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-methoxy-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

4-chloro-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

7-methoxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

6-hydroxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

6-chloro-3-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;

6-fluoro-3-[(3-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

5-chloro-3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;

3-[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-fluoro-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;

3-[(2-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-methoxy-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H--pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;

3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine;
6-bromo-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;
4-chloro-2-methyl-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
7-methoxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;
6-hydroxy-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;
1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-3-(2-pyridinylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;
1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-3-(2-pyridinylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
3-(2-pyridinylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-3-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;
1-(piperidin-3-ylmethyl)-3-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
1-(piperidin-2-ylmethyl)-3-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
3-[(2-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-pyrrolidin-3-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
1-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine;
1-(1-phenethylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine;
1-piperidin-4-yl-3-(2-pyridylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine;
1-piperidin-3-yl-3-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;
1-pyrrolidin-3-yl-3-(3-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridine;
1-[(1-benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
3-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-[(1-benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]-3-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]-pyridine;
3-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-[(1-benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]-3-(3-chlorophenylsulfonyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]-pyridine;
3-(3-chlorophenylsulfonyl)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
3-(3-chlorophenylsulfonyl)-1-[(1-methylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-[(6-chloroimidazo[2,1-b][1,3]thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]-1-(1-methylpiperidin-3-yl))-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-[(6-chloroimidazo[2,1-b][1,3]thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]-1-(piperidin-3-yl))-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

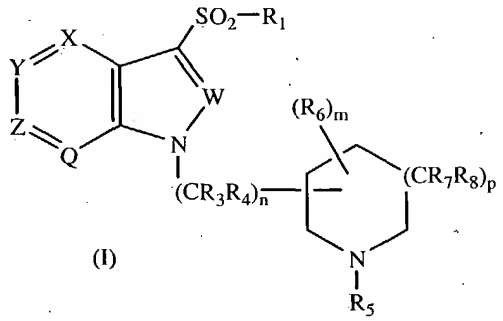
3-[(6-chloroimidazo[2,1-b][1,3]thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

3-[(6-chlorothien-2-yl)sulfonyl]-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

the stereoisomers thereof; and

the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

20. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I



(I)

wherein

W is N or CR_2;

X is N or CR_9;

Y is N or CR_{10};

Z is N or CR_{11};

Q is N or CR_{12} with the proviso that at least one and not more than two of X, Y, Z and Q must be N;

R_1 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl group or an optionally substituted 8- to 13-membered bicyclic or tricyclic ring system having a N atom at the bridgehead and optionally containing 1, 2 or 3 additional heteroatoms selected from N, O or S;

R_2 is H, halogen, or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3 and R_4 are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_6 is a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl or C_2-C_6alkynyl group each optionally substituted;

R_7 and R_8 are each independently H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl or C_2-C_6alkynyl group each optionally substituted;

m and n are each independently 0 or an integer of 1, 2 or 3;

p is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{13}, CO_2R_{14}, $CONR_{15}R_{16}$, SO_xR_{17}, $NR_{18}R_{19}$, OR_{20}, COR_{21} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_{13}, R_{14}, R_{17} and R_{21} are each independently H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

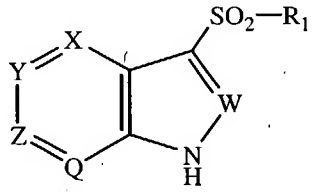
R_{15}, R_{16}, R_{18} and R_{19} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_4alkyl group or R_{15} and R_{16} or R_{18} and R_{19} may be taken together with the atom to which they are attached to form a 5- to 7-membered ring optionally containing another heteroatom selected from O, NR_{22} or SO_q;

R_{20} is a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

x and q are each independently 0 or an integer of 1 or 2; and

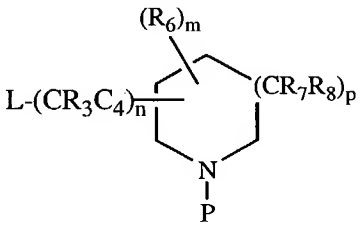
R_{22} is H or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteraryl group each optionally substituted

which process comprises reacting a compound of formula II



(II)

wherein W, X, Y, Z and Q are described hereinabove with a protected azacyclic compound of formula III



(III)

wherein L represents a leaving group; P represents a protecting group and R_3, R_4, R_6, R_7, R_8, n, m and p are as described hereinabove in the presence of a first base to give the protected amine of formula I; and deprotecting said amine to give the compound of formula I wherein R_5 is H optionally alkylating said formula I compound with a compound, R_5-L´, wherein L´ is a leaving group in the presence of a second base.